

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
Office of the District Attorney
MICHAEL A. RAMOS
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
HATE CRIME SUPPRESSION UNIT



**WHAT CAN I DO
ABOUT HATE
CRIMES?**

SPEAK OUT AGAINST ACTS OF HATE

The bigots who commit hate crimes frequently think that they are acting on behalf of others who feel as they do.

It is your job, as a concerned member of your community, to speak out loud and clear, and let them know otherwise.

When a hate crime takes place in your neighborhood, school, or workplace, let your own concern and distress be known immediately. You may wish to speak to the victim(s) directly, or you may wish to work with other members of your community to help coordinate an area-wide response.

You cannot control how or when hate crimes happen. You *can* control how you and your neighbors respond, and deliver a strong message of support to the victim. You can also let the entire community know that *such acts will not be tolerated*.

America is made up of many diverse groups, yet what affects one member of a group affects all of us. We must all learn to speak openly about the damage that prejudice and bigotry does to the fabric of our society, not only when a hate crime occurs, but also on an everyday basis.

You can help by not legitimizing racist, sexist, homophobic, or other offensive comments, actions, or “jokes”.